

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for processing a document ~~including~~having an internal structure made up of a plurality of elements, the method comprising:

a characteristic information extracting step of extracting characteristics of ~~said~~the document;

and

A  
a document classification step of classifying ~~each~~the document into a plurality of classification items making up a classification model depending on ~~the~~ a degree of interrelation between the characteristic information of the document extracted by the characteristic information extracting step and the ~~classification item based~~ characteristic information of the plurality of classification items; and

a calculation step of calculating the degree of interrelation between the characteristic information of the document extracted in the characteristic information extracting step and the characteristic information of the classification items and classifying the document in one of the classification items with a maximum degree of interrelation when the degree of interrelation exceeds a threshold value.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The document processing method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of receiving a plurality of documents; ~~said~~the characteristic information extracting step extracting the characteristic information representing characteristics of each of the plurality of documents ~~document~~ received in ~~said receiving~~ the step of receiving.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The document processing method according to claim 1, wherein a weight is imparted to each ~~element~~ of the plurality of elements based on the internal structure of ~~said~~the document; ~~said~~the characteristic information extracting step extracting ~~any~~ element of the plurality of elements having ~~the~~ a respective weight larger than a pre-set value.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The document processing method according to claim 1 wherein ~~said~~the document classification step classifies the ~~documents~~document using a classification model which is prepared based on the classification ~~operation~~step of classifying the ~~plural documents~~document into the plurality of classification items.

[ Claim 5 (canceled)

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Claim <sup>6</sup>6 (currently amended): The document processing method according to claim 1, wherein the degree of interrelation of the characteristic information of the document extracted in ~~said~~the characteristic information extracting step and the characteristic information of ~~said~~said the plurality of classification items is ~~the~~a linear linkage of ~~the~~a number of overlapping ones of proper nouns contained in the document characteristic information and of proper nouns contained in the characteristic information of ~~said~~said the plurality of classification items, and ~~the~~a degree of interrelation between ~~the~~ semantics other than the proper nouns contained in the document characteristic information and ~~the~~ semantics other than the proper nouns contained in ~~said~~said the plurality of classification items.

Claim <sup>7</sup>7 (currently amended): The document processing method according to claim <sup>6</sup>6, wherein, ~~in obtaining~~to obtain the degree of interrelation of the semantics, each of the semantics is weighted based on ~~the~~a structure of reciprocal referencing among the semantics, and a difference of a weight, imparted to one of the semantics, as a dependent variable, is divided by a difference of a weight, imparted to the other semantics, as an independent variable, with ~~the~~a resulting quotient being the degree of interrelation between the one and the other semantics.

Claim <sup>8</sup>8 (currently amended): The document processing method according to claim <sup>7</sup>7, wherein the ~~relation~~interrelation of reciprocal referencing among the semantics is prepared using a dictionary which, for each of the semantics, ~~referencing is made to~~references other semantics.

Claim <sup>8</sup>~~9~~ (currently amended): A method for processing a document ~~of having~~ an internal structure made up of ~~plural~~ a plurality of semantics, ~~said~~ the method comprising:

a weighting step for weighting each of the semantics based on ~~the~~ a structure of reciprocal referencing among the semantics, wherein the weighting step imparts a weight based on the structure of reciprocal referencing obtained on organizing the reciprocal referencing of semantics using a dictionary which, for each of the semantics, references other semantics; and

a degree of interrelation calculating step of dividing a difference of a weight, imparted to one of the semantics, as a dependent variable, by a difference of a weight, imparted to the other semantics, as an independent variable, with ~~the~~ a resulting quotient being the degree of interrelation between the one and the other semantics.

[ Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim <sup>9</sup>~~11~~ (currently amended): The document processing method according to claim ~~10~~ <sup>8</sup>~~9~~, wherein ~~the~~ attribute information representing attributes of each of the semantics of ~~said~~ <sup>said</sup> the dictionary is imparted to each of the semantics in ~~said~~ <sup>said</sup> the dictionary, and wherein the structure of the reciprocal referencing is ~~constituted~~ based on ~~said~~ <sup>said</sup> the attribute information.

[ Claim 12-15 (canceled)

Claim <sup>10</sup>~~16~~ (new): A method for processing a document having an internal structure made up of a plurality of elements, the method comprising:

a characteristic information extracting step of extracting characteristics of the document;  
and

a document classification step of classifying the document into a plurality of classification items making up a classification model depending on a degree of interrelation between the characteristic information of the document extracted by the characteristic information extracting step and the characteristic information of the plurality of classification items,

wherein the degree of interrelation of the characteristic information of the document extracted in the characteristic information extracting step and the characteristic information of

the plurality of classification items is a linear linkage of a number of overlapping ones of proper nouns contained in the document characteristic information and of proper nouns contained in the characteristic information of the classification items, and a degree of interrelation between semantics other than the proper nouns contained in the document characteristic information and semantics other than the proper nouns contained in the plurality of classification items.

Claim ~~17~~<sup>11</sup> (new): The document processing method according to claim ~~16~~<sup>10</sup>, further comprising a step of receiving a plurality of documents, the characteristic information extracting step extracting the characteristic information representing characteristics of each of the plurality of documents received in the step of receiving.

Claim ~~18~~<sup>12</sup> (new): The document processing method according to claim ~~16~~<sup>10</sup>, wherein a weight is imparted to each of the plurality of elements based on the internal structure of the document, the characteristic information extracting step extracting any element of the plurality of elements having a respective weight larger than a pre-set value.

Claim ~~19~~<sup>13</sup> (new): The document processing method according to claim ~~16~~<sup>10</sup> wherein the document classification step classifies the document using a classification model which is prepared based on the classification step of classifying the document into the plurality of classification items.

Claim ~~20~~<sup>14</sup> (new): The document processing method according to claim ~~16~~<sup>10</sup> wherein to obtain the degree of interrelation of the semantics, each of the semantics is weighted based on a structure of reciprocal referencing among the semantics, and a difference of a weight, imparted to one of the semantics as a dependent variable, is divided by a difference of a weight, imparted to the other semantics as an independent variable, with a resulting quotient being the degree of interrelation between the one and the other semantics.

Claim ~~21~~<sup>15</sup> (new): The document processing method according to claim ~~20~~<sup>14</sup>, wherein the interrelation of reciprocal referencing among the semantics is prepared using a dictionary which, for each of the semantics, references other semantics.